



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - November 18, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are largely confined to ***western Washington***. Dry weather prevails elsewhere, following recent, beneficial precipitation in many locations, including the ***Northwestern*** winter grain belt and key watershed areas of the ***Southwest*** and ***Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, dry, breezy weather is further reducing soil moisture reserves, maintaining concerns about poor winter wheat establishment. On the ***southern High Plains***, however, harvesting of sorghum, cotton, and peanuts continues to advance.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, heavy rain is halting late-season corn harvesting in ***Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, showers and thunderstorms are slowing final autumn fieldwork but improving soil moisture reserves.
- ***In the South***, showers and locally severe thunderstorms are sweeping across the ***Delta***, causing local flooding but boosting soil moisture reserves. Meanwhile, dry weather is returning to the ***western Gulf Coast region***, although local flooding persists. In the ***southern Atlantic States***, warm, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork, including cotton and soybean harvesting, and winter wheat planting.

Outlook: A storm system developing along a slow-moving cold front will trigger heavy rain, locally severe thunderstorms, and gusty winds across the ***eastern one-third of the nation***. Meanwhile, a high-pressure system will maintain mild, mostly dry conditions across the ***western half of the U.S.***, although locally heavy rain and high-elevation snow will persist in the ***Pacific Northwest***. By week's end, cooler weather will return to much of the ***West***, while unsettled conditions will linger in the ***Atlantic Coast States***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 23-27 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Southwest***, from ***Texas northeastward into the upper Mississippi Valley***, and in the ***Atlantic Coast States***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions will prevail in the ***lower Great Lakes region*** and ***northernmost portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Warmer-than-normal weather is forecast in ***nation's northeastern quadrant***, while below-normal temperatures are expected across the ***western half of the U.S.***

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>